

# Half Yearly Bulletin: Age and Disability

July - December 2025

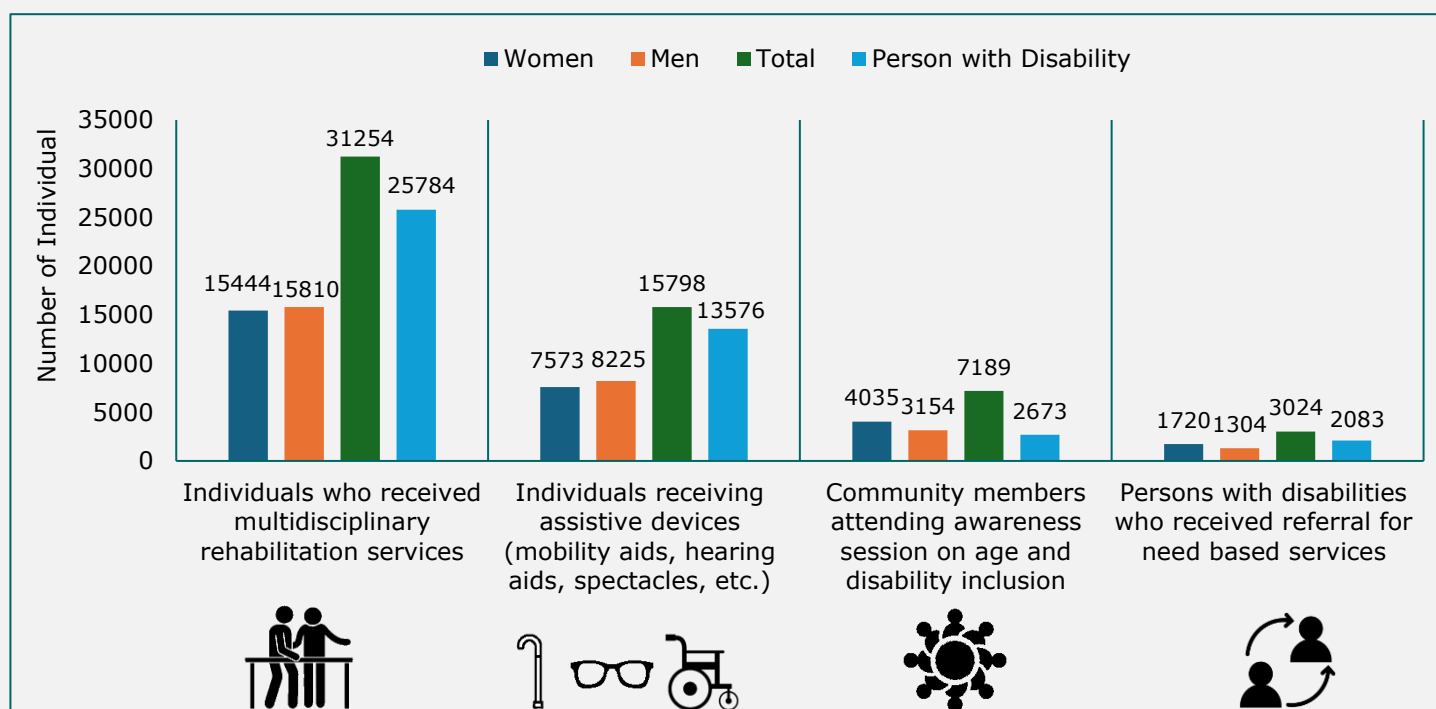


Age and disability are key cross cutting concerns in the Rohingya response, as people across all age groups children, adolescents, youth, adults, and older persons and persons with disabilities face heightened risks due to displacement, overcrowding, and limited access to services. Established in 2024 under the ISCG Secretariat, the Age and Disability Technical Working Group (ADTWG) promotes coordinated, rights-based, and inclusive action across sectors. This bulletin highlights the achievements of the ADTWG and its members over the past six months.

## Achievements on the Twin Track Approach



### Targeted Activities



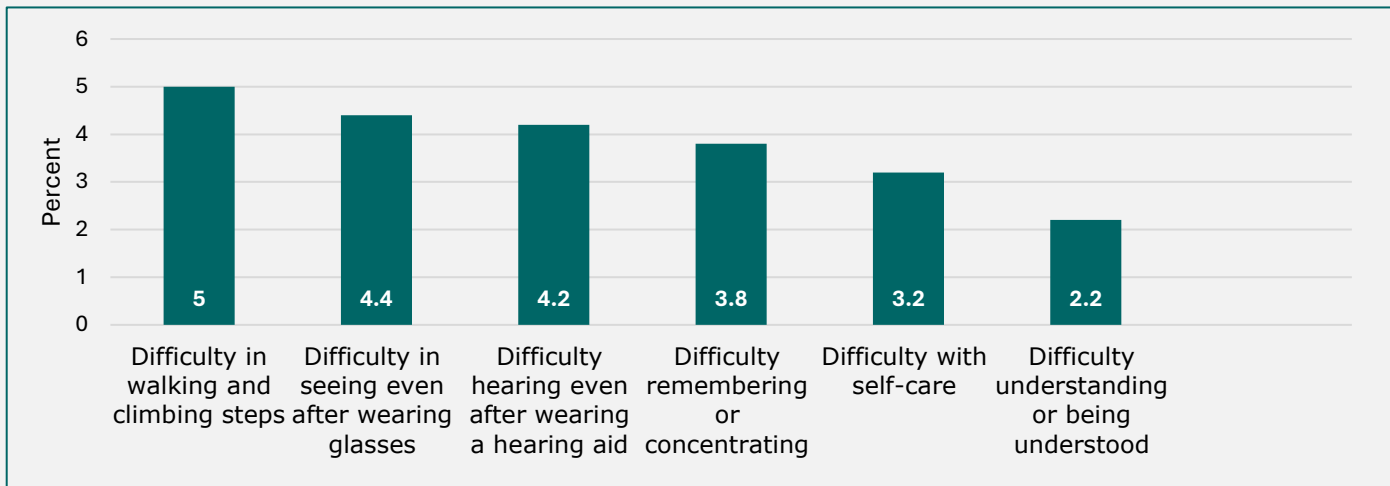
### Mainstreaming Disability Inclusion Activities

<b>112 persons</b>	<b>411 persons</b>	<b>1</b>
Humanitarian staff trained in disability-inclusive and age-sensitive humanitarian action.	OPD/SHG/DISC members received training to improve their capacity towards disability inclusion.	Rapid assessments, analyses, or research studies conducted on disability or older persons' needs.
<b>22 days</b>	<b>26 facilities</b>	<b>205 shelters</b>
Technical support initiatives provided to partner organizations for age and disability inclusion.	Accessibility audits completed at community facilities (health posts, learning centers, etc.)	Home/shelter modifications are conducted to enhance accessibility and safety.

### Findings from the Inter-Sector Needs Assessment 2025 (Age and Disability)

As revealed in the ISNA 2025, there are around 9.7% Rohingya individuals who have at least one disability.

ISNA 2025 survey results also showed that among persons with a disability, at least 52% report challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance, such as education, health services, shelter support, or other kinds of assistance, which is an improvement from 79% who reported having similar challenges in 2024. **Report:** Find the full report [here](#).



**Graph:** Functional difficulties experienced by persons with disabilities across different Washington Group Short Set Questionnaire domains among new arrivals. (ISNA 2025)

### Activities to promote Age and Disability inclusion in line with IASC

Meaningful Participation	Removing Barriers
<p>ADTWG members ensured active participation of DIPG, SHG, and DSC/DISC members in advocacy events, trainings, awareness sessions, and decision-making forums, strengthening meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities in planning and implementation. SHG representatives engaged Union-level representatives and service providers through dialogue meetings to advocate for accessible and inclusive services. Persons with disabilities also supported community referrals, conducted awareness sessions, and provided feedback before and after assistive device distributions to ensure interventions remained relevant, responsive, and needs-based.</p>	<p>Partners including HI, CDD, and Care Bangladesh improved accessibility in shelters and service facilities through accessibility audits and infrastructure upgrades, ensuring persons with disabilities contributed their lived experiences to inform changes. Improvements included installing ramps with handrails, tactile paving, entrance modifications, and improve accessibility of toilets. Awareness sessions with staff, community members, and partners also helped reduce stigma and strengthen positive attitudes and practices toward disability inclusion.</p>
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	Data Disaggregation for Inclusion
<p>ADTWG members including HI, CDD, CBMG, and IOM strengthened the capacities of DIPG, SHG, DSC, and DISC members through trainings, leadership development, and monthly meetings for learning and reflection. During a high-level advocacy event on Access to Government Services and Disability Mainstreaming in Ukhiya, SHG and DSC members engaged in policy dialogue, contributing to commitments on coordination, accessibility standards, and follow-up monitoring. These coordinated initiatives strengthened SHGs and DSCs as active leadership, monitoring, and advocacy actors in disability-inclusive humanitarian action.</p>	<p>ADTWG member HI completed household-level disability data collection in Rohingya camps and shared the findings with UNHCR for updating the progress database. This activity strengthened the availability of updated disability-related information for planning and coordination. Partner organizations also trained project staff and mainstreaming actors on the Washington Group questionnaire, enhancing their capacity to systematically collect disability disaggregated data and promote more inclusive programming.</p>

## Initiatives for Disability Inclusive DRR

CDD conducted 16 batches of training on disability inclusive early warning system, disaster preparedness, and search and rescue for volunteers with disabilities and community responders from SHGs, DSCs, BDRCS, and CPP in camp and host communities. The training strengthened community capacity to implement inclusive preparedness and response using rights based and dignified approaches. A total of 396 participants (240 men, 156 women) attended, which included 303 persons with disabilities (195 men, 108 women). Additionally, 136 persons with disabilities received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), contributing to improved inclusive disaster preparedness and response at community level.



**Photo:** Self Help Group members receiving personal protective equipment.  
**Photo credit:** CDD

## Disability Inclusion Assessment Updates

### Disability Inclusion Sectoral Needs Analysis

Humanity & Inclusion, in collaboration with ADTWG and ISCG, conducted an assessment on Disability Inclusion Sectoral Needs Analysis through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In Depth Interviews (IDIs) with sector focal points and humanitarian actors. The analysis aimed to assess the current situation, identify strengths, and provide recommendations. After the review by the relevant sectors, including LSDS, FSS, Protection, Health, SCCCM, Nutrition, Education, and WASH this analysis was finalized.

**Status:** Completed

**Report:** Find the full report [here](#).



## Guidance and Support to Sectors for Inclusive Programming (RAAL LAB)

During this reporting period, in collaboration with ISCG and the Age & Disability Technical Working Group (ADTWG), Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion organized “Review Adapt Action Learning Laboratory” workshop for two partners under FSS sector (BRAC & Save the Children International), Health sector (UNICEF and Friendship), and LSDS (ActionAid Bangladesh & Shushilan) each. This workshop aimed at collaboratively review, develop, and adapt existing tools to ensure disability inclusion.



**Photo caption:** Humanitarian actors from different organizations joining RAAL Lab session, **Photo credit:** HI

## Observation of International day of Persons with disabilities



**Photo caption:** Rally was organized on the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) observance in the Rohingya camp. **Photo credit:** CDD

3 December marked the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) in Cox's Bazar under the global theme, "**Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress.**" The day was observed through rallies, discussions, and inclusive community events across refugee camps and host community locations in Ukhiya, & Cox's Bazar.

The events brought together Government representatives, Camp-in-Charge (CiC) officials, humanitarian actors, community leaders, and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Disability Support Committees (DSCs). Activities promoted the dignity, rights, participation, and leadership of persons with disabilities while advocating for the removal of physical, social, and institutional barriers.

Rallies and discussion sessions highlighted the message that "*Inclusion is a right, not sympathy,*" while creating platforms to discuss accessibility gaps, disability-inclusive services, and barriers to rehabilitation and financial inclusion. In host communities, collaboration with the Department of Social Services supported awareness on disability ID registration and access to government allowances.

Interactive activities, including inclusive sports, drawing competitions, and assistive device distribution, reinforced the importance of empowerment and active participation of persons with disabilities. Overall, the observance strengthened collaboration among government actors, humanitarian partners, SHGs, DSCs, and communities in promoting inclusive and resilient communities in Cox's Bazar.



### Enabling Inclusion through Rehabilitation

Rabiul Islam Saidy is an 11-year-old boy living with a congenital deformity affecting both his upper and lower limbs. From birth, his physical condition created significant challenges in performing daily activities independently. Tasks such as eating, writing, moving safely, and attending school were extremely difficult without constant support.

He was referred to CDD by YPSA's Child Protection team and from CDD he received an individualized rehabilitation plan after functional assessment.

After continuing therapeutic session, Saidy improved his hand function for eating and basic writing, alongside caregiver and transfer training supported him in safe daily living. A ramp with handrails in front of his home was constructed to address unsafe school access, and he was provided with a wheelchair. This wheelchair played a critical role in improving his daily functioning and access to education.

CDD continues to maintain regular follow-up, collecting feedback from Saidy's parents to monitor progress and ensure the sustainability of the interventions. According to his parents, these services have brought a remarkable positive change in their son's life.



**Photo caption:** Saidy receiving regular therapeutic exercise at home by CDD

**Photo credit:** CDD



**Photo caption:** Saidy's father supporting him in going to school

**Photo credit:** CDD

### Ayesha's Journey: From Survivor to Community Advocate

Ayesha (25) lives in Rohingya Camp 16 with her father and six family members. Her life changed during the 2017 violence in Myanmar, when she sustained injuries that caused chronic back pain and limited movement in her right arm. Even after receiving health care in the camp, she continued facing pain, mobility difficulties, sleep disturbances, and challenges in daily activities, alongside social barriers that affected her confidence.

In 2023, the Humanity & Inclusion (HI) team enrolled Ayesha in physiotherapy and counseling services, helping reduce her pain, improve mobility, and restore her confidence. In 2024, she became a member of the Disability Inclusion Promotion Group (DIPG), where she learned about disability rights, community participation, and advocacy.



**Photo caption:** Ayesha facilitating awareness session on Disability Inclusion

**Photo credit:** Humanity & Inclusion

Reflecting on her journey, Ayesha shared, **“Before, I could not speak confidently. Now I can communicate clearly with NGO staff and volunteers, explain my needs, access services, and help others.”**

Today, she actively participates in community groups, supports disability inclusion awareness sessions, and advocates for equal access to services and livelihood opportunities. Her journey reflects resilience, confidence, and leadership in promoting disability inclusion within her community.

## From Dependence to Empowerment: The Journey of Hapej Ullah

Hapej Ullah, a 25-year-old man from Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar, lived with a physical disability that severely limited his mobility, making him fully dependent on his mother for daily movement and activities. With minimal income from a disability allowance, he experienced social exclusion and financial hardship.

After joining a Self-Help Group supported by FIVDB under the AHP Consortium intervention, Hapej learned about disability rights and available services. He was referred for a functional assessment conducted by CDD, which recommended a suitable assistive device.

He later received a customized motorized tricycle, which became a turning point in his life. As he shared, **“For the first time, I could move independently.”** With improved mobility, he started a small snack business near schools and mosques, earning 250–300 BDT daily and contributing to his family income.

The intervention restored his dignity, independence, and confidence, demonstrating how coordinated support can promote inclusion and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities.



**Photo caption:** Hapej Ullah doing small business in front of madrasa and school  
**Photo credit:** Care Bangladesh

## Restoring Mobility, Renewing Leadership: The Story of Zosna Akter

Zosna Akter, 44, is an Ansar Union Commander from Teknaf. Since 2022, she has been an active community leader, respected for her commitment to public service.

Ten years ago, she was involved in a serious road accident and lost part of her leg below the knee. She was later fitted with a prosthetic leg, which helped her remain mobile and independent. Over time, however, the prosthesis became damaged. Due to the high cost and limited availability, she could not replace it, making movement and participation in work and community activities difficult.

In 2025, SARPV (funded by HI) supported her to restore her mobility. A check-up was arranged at Teknaf Sadar Hospital, and measurements were taken for a new prosthetic leg. A custom made device was produced and fitted according to her needs.

With the new prosthesis, Zosna regained her mobility, confidence, and independence. She can now comfortably move around and fully perform her duties in the Ansar battalion. Beyond her professional responsibilities, she actively participates in community programs, social initiatives, and leadership activities that support and empower her community.

Zosna’s journey reflects how timely rehabilitation support and appropriate assistive devices can remove barriers, restore dignity, and create opportunities for meaningful participation in society. Today, she walks with confidence, continues to lead by example, and inspires others in her community.

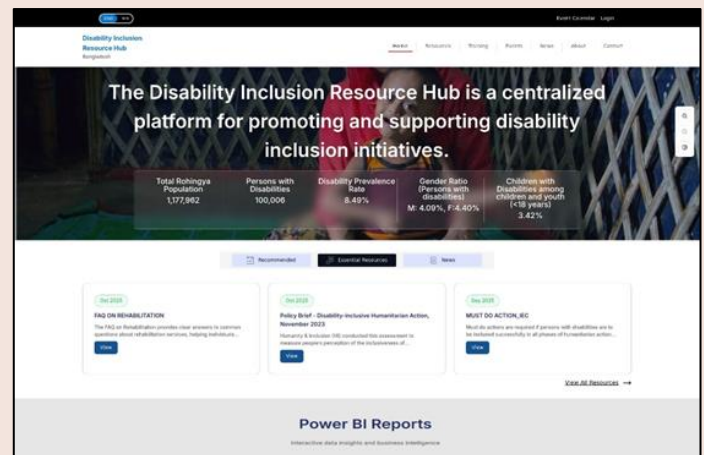


**Caption:** Zosna Akter working independently using the artificial limb.

**Photo credit:** SARPV

## Disability Inclusion Resource Hub

During this period, considering the need to gather disability inclusion resources on a single platform, Humanity & Inclusion, in coordination with ISCG and ADTWG, and with support from different mainstreaming organizations, developed the Disability Inclusion Resource Hub. Through this platform, anyone can search for and download available resources on disability inclusion. Moreover, the hub includes sections on training, news, and disability related data.



**Figure:** Disability inclusion resource hub interface

## Upcoming Activity Plan (January - June 2026)

- Conduct Review, Adapt, and Action Learning (RAAL) Labs to collaboratively review, develop, and adapt assessment tools for inclusion.
- Develop new learning materials, including guidance documents and IEC materials.
- Develop training modules for Disability Inclusion resource library.
- Provide technical support to mainstreaming organizations to promote inclusion as needed.
- Development of disability inclusion tools and sector-specific guidance to strengthen consistent application of inclusive standards in humanitarian programming.
- Provide structured technical inputs in sector coordination meetings to advance systematic integration of disability inclusion in humanitarian decision-making.

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